誰も知らない塔のある町
THE TOWER OF MYSTERION
A MAP OF JAPAN— WHAT'S DAICHI TRYING TO SAY?!
#10 THE DAY THE EARTH WAS DESTROYED
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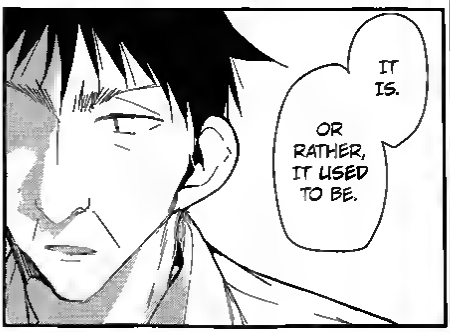
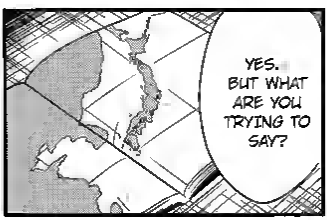
THE ONE WE KNOW IS DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE YOU KNOW.
WHAT? HOW CAN THE MAP BE ANY DIFFERENT?

WHAT? WHY'RE YOU SHOWING ME THE MAP?
THIS IS THE MAP OF JAPAN YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN, RIGHT?


IT IS.
OR RATHER, IT USED TO BE.


YES. BUT WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

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THE TOWER OF MYSTERION

AKAHORI SATORU & INNAMI YUU & TSUNEYOSHI

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEN SHOW ME THE MAP OF JAPAN YOU KNOW!
THIS IS THE JAPAN I'M FAMILIAR WITH.
YEAH...
THIS WAS HOW JAPAN USED TO LOOK UNTIL 25 YEARS AGO
CAN YOU SEE THE ISLAND DOESN'T HAVE A HUGE SHIFT RIGHT HERE?
SO... LIKE THIS?
25 YEARS...? SO YOU'RE SAYING SOMETHING HAPPENED TO IT BEFORE I WAS BORN?
YES. I'LL SHOW YOU ANOTHER DISCREPANCY IT'S SIMPLER
SKETCH MOUNT FUJI FOR ME
MOUNT FUJI ?

A LARGE CHUNK WAS GOUGED OUT 25 YEARS AGO.
WHY?! ARE YOU SAYING AN ERUPTION MADE IT LOOK LIKE THIS?!
LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT FUJI USED TO LOOK LIKE
HUH ...?!
IF ONLY IT WAS JUST AN ERUPTION THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE THOUGHT AT THE START.
I'VE READ ABOUT A DISASTER THAT HAPPENED 25 YEARS AGO IN THE TEXTBOOKS,
BUT THERE WASN'T MUCH ON IT. WAS IT THAT BAD?!
...THE EVENTS THAT DAY ARE BEING BLACKED OUT BY THE MEDIA.
A MEDIA BLACK-OUT ...?
WHAT HAPPENED... EXACTLY?

THE GREAT DISASTER "OBLIVION"...
THE SCORCHING HOT MAGMA THAT SWIRLS AROUND THE EARTH'S CORE.
ITS EXPLOSION CAUSED A MASSIVE EARTH-QUAKE AND A VOLCANIC ERUPTION.
JAPAN WAS STRUCK WITH FORCES ENOUGH TO SHIFT EARTH'S CRUST AND RELEASE PLUMES OF POISONOUS VOLCANIC SMOKE...
THE GREAT... DISAS-TER?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED IN JAPAN?!
YES... 10 YEARS BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

DAD... WHY ARE YOU TELL-ING ME THIS?
A FIFTH?!
A FIFTH OF JAPAN'S POPULATION PERISHED
...I'M GOING OFF TO WORK.
WAIT, DAD!!
I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
I TOLD YOU, IT'S BEING BLACKED OUT.

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GOOD MORNING, MR SHOU!
AH, IKEDA. MORNING.
UMM— THIS HAS BEEN CONCERNING US
SHOULD THE LAYOUT FOR THE STORIES OF THE TWO CASES SHOULD BE THE SAME AS LAST TIME?
WE ALSO MADE SOMETHING ELSE JUST IN CASE—
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK, MR SHOU!

TWO MORE TRAGEDIES IN SEA BREEZE TOWN...
TWO VICTIMS, BOTH FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
YOUR THOUGHTS!
GO WITH THE LAYOUT GIVEN BY THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE DESK.
BUT THIS ONE'S MUCH MORE NATURAL. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D WANT A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE REPORTS.
HUH?! WHY?!
ARE THE POLICE MAKING PROGRESS ON THE SERIAL MURDER INVESTIGATIONS?! BUT THEY DON'T EVEN SEEM TO BE TRYING THAT HARD!
PLEASE TELL US THE REASON! I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND!
IF THEY WERE SIMILAR ACCIDENTS, WHY WOULD WE REPORT SENA AND YUMI'S DEATH DIFFERENTLY?!
THAT'S JUST— THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, MR SUOU.
YOU ALWAYS SAY TO LOOK INTO THE TRUTH THOROUGHLY NO MATTER THE PRESSURE.
THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE FROM OUR SUPERIORS

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WAS VERY STRANGE.
BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THIS?
THE VICTIMS IN THESE SERIAL MURDERS ARE YOUNG, LIKE YOU GUYS
BUT THERE'S AN ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND THEM.
WHETHER YOU WERE BORN BEFORE THE GREAT DISASTER
OR AFTER.
WHAT?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY--
COME
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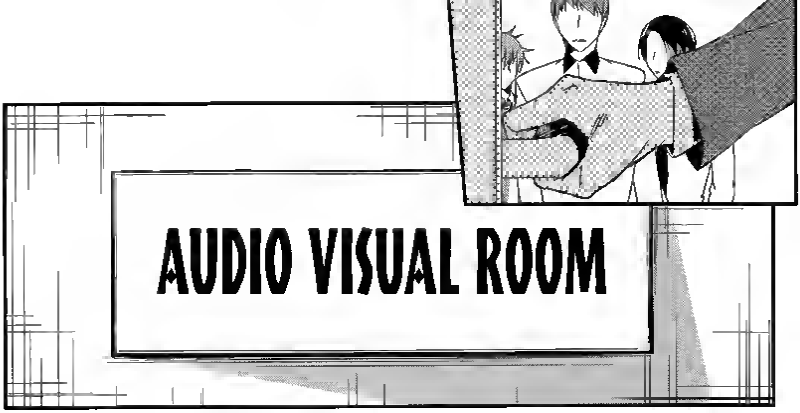
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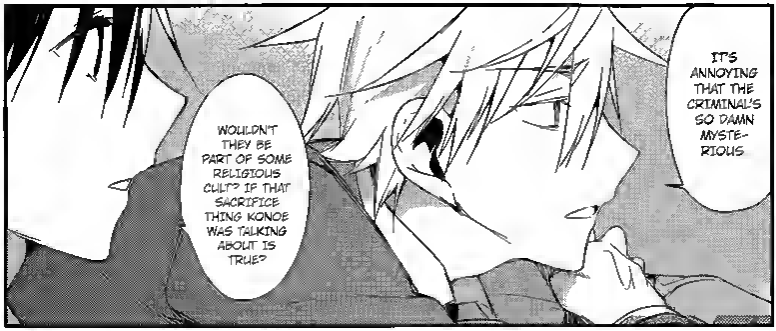
LOOKS LIKE EVERY-ONE'S OFF SCHOOL.
IT'S HOW IT IS. ANYONE CAN BE THE NEXT TARGET.
I'M NOT GONNA DITCH THOUGH I HATE RUNNING AWAY
BUT YOU SHOULD BE CARE-FUL AT THE VERY LEAST.

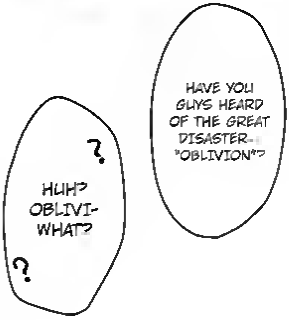

IT'S ANNOYING THAT THE CRIMINAL'S SO DAMN MYSTE-RIOUS.
WOULDN'T THEY BE PART OF SOME RELIGIOUS CULT? IF THAT SACRIFICE THING KONOE WAS TALKING ABOUT IS TRUE?

OH, WAIT, YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH A GUY SO YOU'RE FINE
YOU BETTER WATCH OUT, ITSUKI.
THEY WERE ALL GIRLS THAT'S A GOOD POINT.
STARTING WITH MAO ALL THE VICTIMS WERE GIRLS, RIGHT?
HE'S GOTTA BE SOME SORTA PE-DOPHILE.

MY DAD TOLD ME SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT MEANS THOUGH
HUH?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT I THINK HE'S TRYING TO GET AT SOME-THING
WAS IT SOMETHING THAT COULD GET US TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS?

WHADDYA MEAN? DOES YOUR DAD KNOW WHO DID IT?

YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE DISASTER THAT HAPPENED 10 YEARS BEFORE WE WERE BORN, RIGHT?
OH, YEAH. I THINK I REMEMBER SOMETHING LIKE THAT
I DON'T RECALL IT BEING THAT BIG OF A DISASTER


HAVE YOU GUYS HEARD OF THE GREAT DISASTER "OBLIVION"?
HUH? OBLIVI-WHAT?

APPARENTLY, ONE FIFTH OF THE POPULATION DIED...
WHAT?!
NOBODY'S TOLD ME THAT! A FIFTH?!
BUT THERE AREN'T MANY OLD BUILDINGS AROUND...
MOST WERE BUILT LESS THAN 25 YEARS AGO
I THOUGHT THE SAME WAY. BUT MY DAD SHOWED ME A PICTURE OF FUJI FROM BEFORE...
IT LOOKED TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE KNOW.
H... HOLD ON A SECOND!
COULD IT BE POSSIBLE THAT THE DISASTER DESTROYED THEM ALL...?
B... BUT HOW'S IT POSSIBLE TO EVEN PRETEND THAT SUCH A HUGE DISASTER DIDN'T HAPPEN?!
EVEN IF WE SAY IT DID HAPPEN... WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TRYING TO SAY?

I DON'T KNOW.
I JUST KNOW IT'S PROBABLY RELATED TO THE MURDERS
WHAT THE HELL?
A MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE AND A VOLCANIC ERUPTION ONE FIFTH OF THE POPULATION DEAD
IF THAT WERE TRUE, WHY ARE HEY HIDING IT FROM US?
I DON'T SEE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SERIAL KILLINGS AND THIS DISASTER 25 YEARS AGO!
I'M HOPING TO BECOME A SACRIFICE.
T THIS ULD BE E SORT HINT-
ｸｸｯ!

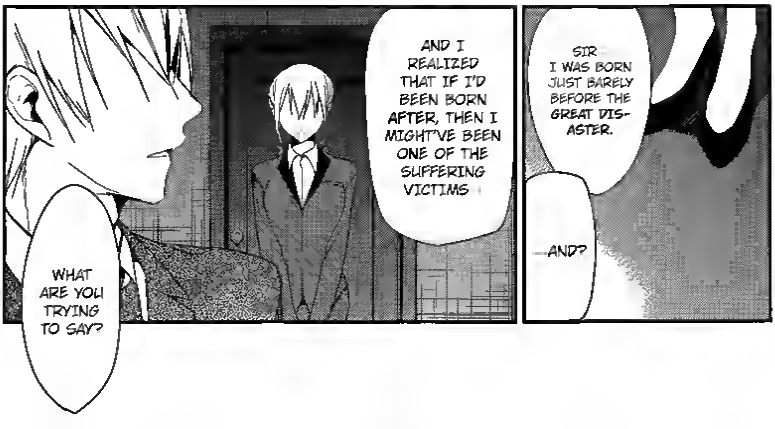
...THIS IS THE TRAGEDY THAT BEFELL THAT DAY.
AT THAT TIME I WAS JUST A NOVICE REPORTER.
IN THE FACEOF SO MANY VICTIMS, ALL I COULD DO WAS SAVE MYSELF.
AND THAT HAS PLAGUED ME WITH GUILT EVER SINCE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
TO THINK SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED IN JAPAN...
BUT WHY WAS IT PUT UNDER A MEDIA BLACKOUT?! IT CAN BE A VALUABLE OUTREACH FOR DISASTER EDUCATION AND TO COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO DIED!
THE EVENT WAS... TOO HORRIFYING TO REMEMBER
THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE SPLIT THE GROUND.
BUT, DESPITE THESE, PEOPLE STILL HAD HOPE. THANKS TO EARTHQUAKE MEASURES, MANY LIVES WERE SAVED.
BLACK CLOUDS BLANKETED THE SKY, AND RAIN IN THE FORM OF SLUDGE FELL UPON US.
HOWEVER, NO ONE ANTICIPATED THE ENSUING CALAMITY.
THE POISONOUS VOLCANIC SMOKE.
MANY PEOPLE DIED SLOWLY BY SUFFOCATION. THE HAVOC WAS GREAT ENOUGH TO ERADICATE ENTIRE CITIES.

BUT WHAT WAS BROKEN THE MOST WERE THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE WHO WENT THROUGH THE EXTREME.
PEOPLE RIOTED AND PLUNDERED FOR FOOD EVERYWHERE... INFRASTRUCTURES AND HOSPITALS WERE AT A STANDSTILL. SOMETIMES, THE INJURED HAD TO BE ABANDONED.
WE REALIZED HOW HACKNEYED THE BONDS WE BELIEVED WOULD TETHER PEOPLE TOGETHER WERE.
GIVEN THAT IT WAS A NATURAL DISASTER, PEOPLE HAD NOWHERE TO DIRECT THEIR ANGER PEOPLE WERE DRIVEN TO THEIR WIT'S END
.....
BUT... WE WERE ABLE TO STAND ONCE AGAIN.
AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'VE SOMEHOW MAINTAINED PEACE ON THE SURFACE.
ALTHOUGH THE SERIAL KILLINGS ARE GOING ON, AND ALL HUMAN LIVES ARE EQUAL...

WE'RE WATCHING THE LIVES OF 20 MILLION PEOPLE BEING LOST.
EVERY SURVIVOR STILL CARRIES THE TRAUMA OF THE DISASTER.
MANY STILL SUFFER FROM POST-TRAUMATIC FLASHBACKS.
SO, IN ORDER TO DO THAT...
YES... BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON
THAT'S WHY THE BLACKOUT WAS...?
WE COULDN'T LET SUCH A TRAGEDY OCCUR AGAIN.

ANOTHER MISSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN SEA BREEZE TOWN
DID IT GO WELL THIS TIME, SAWAI?
YES. WITHOUT A HITCH.
I SEE... PLEASE INFORM THE WORKERS ON THE SITE THE GOOD NEWS.
YES
.....

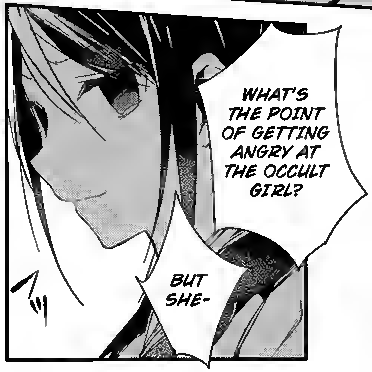

SIR I WAS BORN JUST BARELY BEFORE THE GREAT DISASTER.
—AND?
AND I REALIZED THAT IF I'D BEEN BORN AFTER, THEN I MIGHT'VE BEEN ONE OF THE SUFFERING VICTIMS.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

FIRST OF ALL, IF YOU THINK PROTECTING PEOPLE'S LIVES IS "SUFFERING", THEN YOU HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE WORK YOU DO
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
OF COURSE, THIS COULD SPELL TRAGEDY FOR ONE PERSON AND THEIR FAMILY
BUT WE MUST NOT SHOW PITY.
IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR OWN LIVES, THEY ARE NOBLY PROTECTING THE LIVES OF MANKIND AND MOTHER NATURE
THEY AREN'T SACRIFICES, BUT RATHER HEROES.
—MR. TAKAOKA YOU'RE STRONG AREN'T YOU?
I HAVE TO BE
I WON'T LET THAT TRAGEDY— THAT DESPAIR— HAPPEN AGAIN.
WE MUST USE EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS—
TO PREVENT THE GREAT DISASTER "ANNIHILATION" FROM HAPPENING

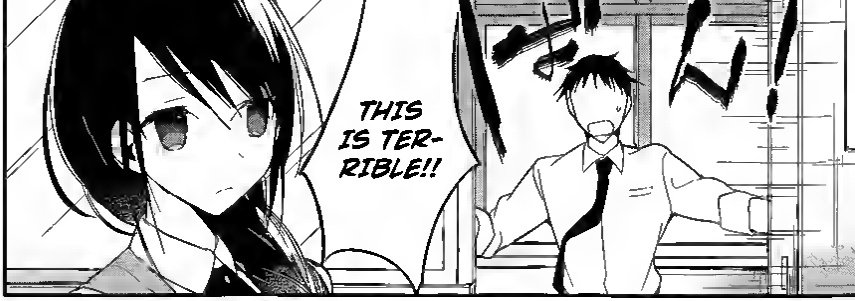
YOU. WANT TO BECOME A SACRIFICE?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! ARE YOU SAYING YOU'LL DIE INSTEAD OF SENA OR MAO?
STOP, ITSUKI!

POOR DEVIL... SO QUICK TO RELEASE ANGER.
WHAT?!


WHAT'S THE POINT OF GETTING ANGRY AT THE OCCULT GIRL?
BUT SHE-

THERE, THERE. HOW ABOUT CALMING DOWN?
I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IN THIS STUFF EITHER... BUT...
THIS ISN'T A NORMAL SERIAL KILLING... SO MANY AWFUL THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING ON.
UMM KONDO
IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE DISASTER, COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT IT?



AFTER SENA, EVEN YUUHEI WAS TARGETED?! ARE THE VICTIMS NOT JUST WOMEN?

YUUHEI DIED.

TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE 7.